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 UNCLAS LA PAZ 1129
 USCINCSO FOR POLAD
 SUBJECT: ALTMANN CASE
 REC: LA PAZ 1056

1. PRESENCE OF FEBRUARY 29 QUOTED FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES AS STATING OFFICIAL REPLY OF PRESIDENT BANZER TO GOB PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S LETTER REQUESTING FAVORABLE REPLY TO ALTMANN EXTRADITION REQUEST WAS GIVEN ON FEBRUARY 28 TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN LA PAZ FOR DELIVERY TO POMPIDOU. PRESENCE COMMENTED THAT REPLY MADE POINT THAT CASE WAS STRICTLY JUDICIAL MATTER AND THAT BOLIVIA WOULD COMPLY WITH "ITS OWN LAWS AND INTERNATIONAL TREATIES". (NOTE: GOB DOES NOT HAVE EXTRADITION TREATY WITH FOG) THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES ALLEGEDLY REITERATED STATEMENT MADE EARLIER BY FOREIGN MINISTER GUTIERREZ THAT GOB HAD NOT FORMALLY REQUESTED EXTRADITION.

2. IN FEBRUARY 28 PRESS CONFERENCE "NAZI HUNTER" KLARSFELD ACCUSED GOB OF PROTECTING ALTMANN; SHE SAID IT WAS "SHAMEFUL" THAT MRS HALAUNBRENNER "IS NOT BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY THE ASSASSIN OF HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN". FEBRUARY 29 EL DIARIO COMMENTED THAT "OFFICIALS SOURCES" HAD THREATENED HER WITH EXPULSION FROM BOLIVIA IF SHE CONTINUED "ABUSING HER STATUS AS A TOURIST".

3. CASE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY, WITH MAJORITY OF EDITORIAL OPINION SYNPATETIC TOWARD ALTMANN AND REQUESTING DECISION ON BASIS OF BOLIVIAN LAWS, RATHER THAN ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. SIRACUSA

BT

FOR COORDINATION WITH STATE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2000 2006